

## APPENDIX A

### A. Methodology

We selected various California counties to include southern, northern, and central California, and to include rural, urban, and suburban areas.<sup>1</sup> We then used the CDE's county-based charter school locator to identify the site-based charter schools in the counties we had in selected.<sup>2</sup> In each county we reviewed the materials available online for a sample of site-based charter schools in that county – for a total of 555 charter schools.

For each of the charter schools in our sample, we reviewed the school's website and other materials available online, such as a parent-student handbook, policy manual, parent participation "contract," charter document, or family newsletters to determine whether parent, guardian, or family member work at the school was required, and whether there was a quota of required "volunteer hours" (sometimes called "service hours" or "parent participation hours") for parents or family members other than the student. In some cases, where online materials were not available, we obtained evidence of forced work policies directly from parents.

We then categorized each charter school as "yes" (requires parent work hours), "no" (does not require parent work hours) or "unclear."

**Schools categorized as "yes":** We categorized as "yes" only charter schools that made clear that parent volunteer hours were *required*. Schools in this category state that the service hours are "required", "mandatory," use some other mandatory language (such as "all families must...") and/or state that an adverse consequence will occur if the hours are not worked. Such schools frequently also require parents to "log" or "track" their hours. Some, but not all, of these schools allow for hours to be "purchased" rather than served, via a payment (of, e.g. \$5, \$10, or \$20) per required hour, or via in-kind donations of goods.

**Schools categorized as "unclear":** The large majority of the charter schools in our sample fell into the "unclear" category, which meant that there was not enough information available for us to determine whether the school required parent work hours or not. Some of the schools in this category simply had no website at all, or no policy materials available online. Other schools in this category did have materials online, but we could not discern from those materials whether parent work hours were required. Many schools in this category had policy statements strongly encouraging or recommending that parents perform work at the school, and providing a recommended quota of service hours, recommending that parents log their hours, and encouraging parents to donate money in lieu of hours. Such schemes seemed to strongly suggest that the work hours were a de facto requirement, and we have heard anecdotally that some schools with such policies in fact do require the work hours or donations. But in an abundance of caution we still categorized these schools as "unclear" rather than "yes," if the language was always hortatory every time the service hours were referenced. However, if a school referred to

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<sup>1</sup> We surveyed the following counties. Parentheticals refer to the percentage of the county's site-based charters included in our sample. Alameda (57%), Butte (100%), Contra Costa (92%), El Dorado (100%), Fresno (83%), Glenn (100%), Humboldt (100%), Kern (22%), Los Angeles (65%), Marin (100%), Mariposa (100%), Mendocino (78%), Merced (100%), Orange (83%), Riverside (8%), Sacramento (97%), San Bernardino (86%), San Diego (54%), San Joaquin (75%), San Luis Obispo (100%), San Mateo (100%), Santa Clara (79%), Solano (88%), Ventura (88%).

<sup>2</sup> California Department of Education, Charter Schools in California Counties, <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/si/cs/ap1/ImageMap.aspx> (last visited Oct. 30, 2014).

parental work as merely “encouraged” but also stated that an adverse consequence would occur if the parental service was not done, we categorized that school as a “yes.”<sup>3</sup>

**Schools categorized as “no”:** We categorized as “no” only those schools whose materials include statements such as “no student will be denied admission nor face disciplinary penalties or dismissal for a failure of the parent/guardian to sign or comply with the [parent participation] contract.”<sup>4</sup>

## B. Results: Scope of Parent Work Requirements

Out of our sample of 555 charter schools, 168 (or 30%) fell into the “yes” category. Only six schools (1% of our sample) clearly did *not* require parental volunteer hours. 381 schools (69%) fell into the “unclear” category.

We believe that it is underinclusive to say that 30% of the charter schools in our sample require parents to do work, given that 69% of the sample did not have enough information available.

<b>Yes</b>	Charter schools that clearly required parent work hours	168	30%
<b>No</b>	Charter schools that clearly did not require parent work hours	6	1%
<b>Unclear</b>	Charter schools without enough information to determine	381	69%
	Total charter schools surveyed	555	100%

<sup>3</sup> For example, Abernathy Collegiate Charter School’s Parent Handbook refers to “recommended parent participation hours.” But the same page of the handbook states that “failure to participate in volunteer hours may result in loss of priority enrollment rights for the following year.” Appendix B at 38. Thus, we categorized this school as requiring, not simply “recommending,” parent work hours.

<sup>4</sup> See Charter Petition, Achieve Charter School of Paradise, available at <https://www.achievecharter.org/docs/pdf/ACS-Charter.pdf>. Though we do not include these schools on our list, we are unsure whether their practice would comply with the law if it constituted a fee-plus-waiver scheme, in which parents are presumed to have to do the required hours but must ask to opt-out if they cannot fulfill them. On the FAQs page of Synergy Quantum Academy, chartered by LAUSD, it says: “Q: Do you require parent volunteer hours? A: NO. Parents are welcome to volunteer but they are not required to do so.” (emphasis in original) at [http://www.wearesynergy.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=136410&type=d&pREC\\_ID=264550](http://www.wearesynergy.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=136410&type=d&pREC_ID=264550) (last visited Oct. 13, 2014)